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AUG 0 6 2004

NIXON PEABODY, LLP 401 9TH STREET, NW SUITE 900 WASHINGTON DC 20004-2128

In re Application of

Gary J. Mullen

Serial No.: 10/656,245

DECISION ON PETITION

Filed: September 8, 2003

For: An Apparatus for Treating

Pneumothorax and/or Hemothorax

This is in response to the petition applicant filed on March 29, 2004 to make the above-identified application special under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.102(d).

Applicant has satisfied the provisions set forth in M.P.E.P. 708.02, VIII, thus the petition is **GRANTED**.

The application will be forwarded to the examiner for action on the merits commensurate with this decision.

Should there be any questions with regard to this letter please contact John Kittle by letter addressed to the Director, Technology Center 3700/2900, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or by telephone at (703) 308-0873 or by facsimile transmission at (703) 308-3139.

John E. Kittle Director

Technology Center 3700/2900

E. Kit